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Sustainable development: report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on its twelfth special session

Draft resolution submitted by the Rapporteur of the Committee, Aida Hodžić (Bosnia and Herzegovina), on the basis of informal consultations on draft resolution A/C.2/67/L.21

Report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on its twelfth special session and on the implementation of section IV.C entitled "Environmental pillar in the context of sustainable development" of the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming the mandate contained in resolution 2997 (XXVII) of 15 December 1972 which established the United Nations Environment Programme, and other relevant resolutions that reinforce its mandate, as well as the 1997 Nairobi Declaration on the Role and Mandate of the United Nations Environment Programme of 7 February 1997[1] and the 2000 Malmö Ministerial Declaration of 31 May 2000,[2]

Recalling its resolutions 53/242 of 28 July 1999, 55/200 of 20 December 2000, 57/251 of 20 December 2002, 64/204 of 21 December 2009, 65/162 of 20 December 2010, 66/203 of 22 December 2011 and other previous resolutions relating to the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum of the United Nations Environment Programme,

Reaffirming its commitment to strengthening the role of the United Nations Environment Programme as the leading global environmental authority that sets the global environmental agenda, promotes the coherent implementation of the

* Reissued for technical reasons on 5 December 2012.

[1] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-second Session, Supplement No. 25* (A/52/25), annex, decision 19/1, annex.

[2] Ibid., *Fifty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 25* (A/55/25), annex I, decision SS.VI/1, annex.

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environmental dimension of sustainable development within the United Nations system and serves as an authoritative advocate for the global environment,

Taking into account Agenda 21[3] and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (Johannesburg Plan of Implementation),[4]

Reaffirming the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development[5] and its principles,

Recalling the 2005 World Summit Outcome,[6]

Recalling also the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-building,[7]

Committed to strengthening international environmental governance within the context of the institutional framework for sustainable development in order to promote a balanced integration of the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development as well as coordination within the United Nations system,

Recalling the outcome document, entitled "The future we want",[8] of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, held from 20 to 22 June 2012 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, which invited the General Assembly to adopt, at its sixty-seventh session, a resolution strengthening and upgrading the United Nations Environment Programme, in the manner outlined in paragraph 88, subparagraphs (a) to (h) of the outcome document,

Recalling also paragraph 89 of the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, encouraging parties to multilateral environmental agreements to consider further measures, in the chemicals and waste clusters and other clusters, as appropriate, to promote policy coherence at all relevant levels, improve efficiency, reduce unnecessary overlap and duplication and enhance coordination and cooperation among the multilateral environmental agreements, including the three Rio conventions, as well as with the United Nations system in the field,

Reiterating the need for secure, stable, adequate and predictable financial resources for the United Nations Environment Programme, and, in accordance with its resolution 2997 (XXVII) of 15 December 1972, underlining the need to consider the adequate reflection of all the administrative and management costs of the Programme in the context of the United Nations regular budget,

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[3] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992*, vol. I, *Resolutions Adopted by the Conference* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution 1, annex II.

[4] *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August-4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 2, annex.

[5] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992*, vol. I, *Resolutions Adopted by the Conference* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution 1, annex I.

[6] Resolution 60/1.

[7] UNEP/GC.23/6/Add.1 and Corr.1, annex.

[8] Resolution 66/288, annex.

Reiterating also that capacity-building and technology support to developing countries in environment-related fields are important components of the work of the United Nations Environment Programme,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on its twelfth special session and the decisions contained therein;[9]

2. *Reiterates* the continuing need for the United Nations Environment Programme to conduct up-to-date, comprehensive, scientifically credible and policy-relevant global environmental assessments, in close consultation with Member States, in order to support decision-making processes at all levels, and in this regard takes note of the fifth report in the Global Environment Outlook series and its related summary for policymakers,[10] and stresses the need to enhance the policy relevance of the Outlook by, inter alia, identifying policy options to speed up the achievement of the internationally agreed goals and to inform global and regional processes and meetings where progress towards the agreed goals will be discussed;

3. *Also reiterates* the importance of the Nairobi headquarters location of the United Nations Environment Programme, and requests the Secretary-General to keep the resource needs of the Programme and the United Nations Office at Nairobi under review so as to permit the delivery, in an effective manner, of necessary services to the Programme and to the other United Nations organizations and entities in Nairobi;

4. *Decides* to:

(a) Strengthen and upgrade the United Nations Environment Programme in the manner set out in subparagraphs (a) to (h) of paragraph 88 of the outcome document, entitled "The future we want",[8] of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, as endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 66/288 of 27 July 2012;

(b) Establish universal membership in the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme, and mandates it, as of its first universal session to be held in Nairobi in February 2013, using its applicable rules of procedure and applicable rules and practices of the General Assembly, pending the adoption of its new rules of procedure, to expeditiously initiate the implementation of the provisions contained in paragraph 88 of the outcome document[8] in its entirety; make a recommendation on its designation to reflect its universal character; and decide on future arrangements for the Global Ministerial Environment Forum;

(c) Request the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme to continue to provide support for the full and effective participation of representatives of developing countries in the Governing Council meeting and to invite the Governing Council to consider further arrangements in this regard;

5. *Recalls* the decision to have secure, stable, adequate and increased financial resources from the regular budget of the United Nations and voluntary

[9] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 25* (A/67/25).

[10] United Nations Environment Programme, *Global Environmental Outlook 5: Environment for the Future We Want* (Nairobi, 2012).

contributions to fulfil the mandate of the United Nations Environment Programme, and:

(a) Requests the Secretary-General, in line with paragraph 88 (b) of the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development,[8] to reflect in the 2014-2015 biennium budget proposal resources that take into account the proposed revised programme of work of the United Nations Environment Programme and the implementation of paragraph 88, subparagraphs (a) to (h) of the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, as well as opportunities for increasing the efficient use of resources;

(b) Urges donors to increase voluntary funding to the United Nations Environment Programme, including to the Environment Fund;

(c) Requests the Secretary-General to maintain the resource needs from the regular budget of the United Nations for the United Nations Environment Programme under review, in the light of the implementation of paragraph 88 of the outcome document, in accordance with United Nations budgetary practices;

6. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-eighth session, under the item entitled "Sustainable development", a sub-item entitled "Report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme at its first universal session".